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JAMAICA

USAID/JAMAICA— WEEKLY REPORT

July 31, 2012 Highlights:



Mission Director of USAID/Jamaica, Ms. Denise A. Herbol (center) is engaged in discussions with the Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr. the Honorable Peter Phillips (right) and the Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change the Honorable Robert Pickersgill at the Climate Change Workshop in Kingston on July 26, 2012.



Representatives from USAID/Jamaica and the DC-Based GCC team explore one of the many coastlines within the Parish of Westmoreland in Western Jamaica that were affected by storm surges due to Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

♦ **Global Climate Change (GCC) Workshop and Site Visit** - USAID/Jamaica is supporting the development of a National Climate Change Policy Framework and Action Plan—a clear request of Prime Minister Simpson Miller when she launched the Climate Change Department under the newly formed Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change (WLECC) in April 2012. The Jamaica Mission, with help from E3 and LAC/RSD/ENV supported the GOJ's kick off workshop for this in Kingston, Jamaica. The workshop was held on July 26 and 27, 2012. The Mission Director and GCC team (here and from Washington) have been working hard to ensure there is political will from the highest levels of government; this workshop came at an opportune time to continue to push the GCC agenda (more than half of the Mission's DA funding). The workshop was attended by almost 200 people from a broad range of stakeholders: Heads of Government and Embassies, development partners, private sector, academia and civil society. The recommendations and input of the stakeholders will feed into the drafting of a road map by year-end to achieve climate resilience in Jamaica through broad integration into the nation's Vision 2030 National Development Plan. The road map will also allow development partners to better program and coordinate resources and maximize impact on-the-ground. After the workshop a team from the Mission and DC visited a number of sites along the coastline in Westmoreland and St. Mary that were affected by storm surges and erosion due to climate change to see and document impacts first-hand.

♦ **U.S. Embassy supports USAID/Jamaica's Early Childhood Initiative**- The United States Embassy in Kingston has given its support to 'Crayons Count', the initiative to distribute 2,700 kits containing learning tools to every early childhood institution across the island. The embassy joins other partners which have thrown their support behind this ambitious project. Last Thursday marked the end of a US Embassy-supported series of three full-day workshops with teachers and practitioners from 70 of the island's 2,700 early childhood institutions. According to the US Embassy, it recognised 'Crayons Count' as an opportunity to support USAID's investment in primary education by contributing to the teaching methods employed at the early childhood level.

Upcoming Events:

- ♦ **USAID to Participate in Jamaica's Jubilee Village** - For six days, Independence Park will host the Golden Jubilee village to mark Jamaica's 50th anniversary. USAID Jamaica along with the entire U.S. Mission in Jamaica will participate in this event on Wednesday August 1, 2012. The Village will be abuzz with activity as it plays host to hundreds of performers and a multitude of patrons of all ages from all across the island and the world. Comprising a piano bar and a main stage - in addition to an exciting Children's Village - the Golden Jubilee Village will be replete with entertainment and thought-provoking conversations. The Village will also have a global reach as it will be linked to areas in the United Kingdom, Canada and Miramar in Florida, and will also be streamed live on the Internet.